Issue 114 March 2012

KNOTTING MATTERS

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

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The Knot Scene ***Geoffrey Budworth***

A very useful A-Z of knotting nomenclature

Knot Rhymes and Reasons ***Geoffrey Budworth***

Intriguing and whimsical knotting limericks

Knotlore 2 ***Geoffrey Budworth***

Quotes about knotting from all of recorded history

Plaited Moebius Strips ***Geoffrey Budworth***

'Tye' these to confuse and puzzle

Ropefolk ***Stuart Grainger***

Many 'beastie' knots to amuse and stimulate.

A Guide to the Multi, Single-Strand Cruciform Turk's Head by Harold 'Hal' Scott

Fairly complex Turk's Heads tied around crosses and circles

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Front Cover A bowling ball covered with 65 feet of 3/4-inch manila line, as a Monkey Fist by Paul Zimmerman - see the pain relief medication? Probably needed!

Catalog Information

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1uuwo^g93!

Letters to The Editor
The Things You Say!!

Dear Lindsey,

Reading your note in issue #108 on the possibility of a Birthday Corner, I have an open mind, but by coincidence, I am reading it on my birthday [***October 26***] so felt like saying something. I am a founder member and the first president and today I am aged 98. I wonder if any other member is that age or older, or can I claim to be the oldest inhabitant'?

Percy Blandford

Ed: How about it readers? Anyone else like to step forward?

An Ode to English Plural

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
The cow in the plural may be cows or kine,
But a bow if repeated is never called bine,
And the plural of vow is vows, never vine.....

This is the start of something referred to as "***The English Lesson***" on the internet, where it seems no author is known for the piece. I was intrigued by the word "bine" as a plural of the word bow. Of course this may be a homonym for the power behind the weapon, not the knot. The piece in full may have appeared in print as early as 1858, although no author is ever identified. Can you help us find him or her? Ed.

Dear Lindsey

I thought these photos might amuse Guild Members.

Traditionally our family Christmas cake is decorated with 4 ceramic polar bears (dating from the 1930s when my mother was at Domestic Science College). They are always engaged in doing something topical from the current year. For example last year they were swimming with Whale Sharks in Australia.

As you can see this time they are visiting the IGKT Half Yearly meeting at Gloucester Docks where they are learning to make braids using Willeke's splendid swing method. This is not the first time the Christmas bears have been knotting – there is a miniature Knot Board in our display cabinet dating from an IGKT meeting in Chatham Dockyard in 1988 (I think!).

I wonder when/if they will add to their knotting know-how in the future?

Regards
Penny Bodger

Dear Lindsey:

Growing up in England during World War Two, material shortages inculcated a practice of self-reliance - indeed, the slogan of the time was "Make Do and Mend". Although the necessity has abated, the interest in finding ingenious solutions to everyday requirements persists to this day and I take particular satisfaction in finding elegantly simple ways to accomplish a task. Knotting provides an excellent means of doing this and the sailing ship was replete with ingenious devices which were constructed with the simplest of materials. My present device is hardly in the category of being ingenious, but would qualify for usefulness.

Some time ago, I required a quick-disconnect device for a stump-pulling job in the garden, using a purchase, so I constructed the Spritsail Sheet Messenger Strap (ABOK #1520), which worked well. After I had made the device, it occurred to me that it should be possible to construct a similar device temporarily, from a length of braided line, which could be used, disassembled and reassembled as necessary. After a couple of rather ugly starts, I came up with the device shown in the picture,

alongside its "proper" counterpart [***"proper" on right, below***]. A length of braided line is doubled, a Knife Lanyard Knot (ABOK #787) is tied, to form a closed loop (Becket) and the two ends are tied in a Two Strand Button Knot (ABOK #980). Embellishments like seizings and Turk's Head Knots may be added, but these would render the device less temporary.

This device has proven of immense usefulness; one use has been to keep the patio umbrella furled, replacing a rather ugly and tattered length of cotton banding which had been supplied for the purpose.

All the best,
John Heselton.

Dear Lindsey,
You may care to look at (http://www.bonhams.com/usa/auction/19192/lot/2037/); it is the frame from GH [***Graumont & Hensel, Encyclopedia of Knots and Fancy Ropework.***] plate 234 first edition (plate 233 4th edition) I am sure.

Des Pawson

Editor's note: As an item of general interest to our readers, the picture frame shown in the internet web-site (said by Bonhams on May 25, 2011 to include "... macrame, monkey fists, and other intricate knot work.") is a "rope work frame" sold for a total, including commission, of ***US$6,710*** *(Sale 19192, Lot 2037) and is 51 inches by 43 1/2 inches (1.295 X 1.105 metres). It had a signature "G.E. Torrig" in the lower right corner of the painting. In fact, the frame included coachwhipping, Solomon's bars (flat and twisted aka Portuguese square sinnet and Spiral sinnet) as sinnet, 7-strand sinnet, 5-, 9-, and 10-strand Turk's Heads, large and small Diamond knots and a diamond mesh of square knots. There was not a single Monkey Fist or piece of macrame in the whole frame, and the original picture was of the Seaman's Church Institute in New York City, whose collection was being sold, this painting and frame previously hung in the Conrad Library with a second frame shown in the next Plate, as advised by Graumont & Hensel in their Encyclopedia. I am seeking permission to reproduce a photograph of the frame in our magazine so that non-web users may also see the workmanship. The current picture is a watercolor of a sailor, blue jacket, white trousers, looking pensive or bored.*

Sir,
Another fine pair of chest beckets (KM 113), adorning an equally fine chest. We see these on a fairly regular basis and Ashley shows a comprehensive collection in his frontispiece.

However, I must ask whether people have actually tried lifting a well filled chest with such beckets? They 'close in' and are very painful! Ashley shows just one with a hard bar which would protect the hand. Should we be designing a new style for soft modern hands?

Hoping this provokes discussion
Brian Stammers

The Bow-Line-Knot

by Owen K. Nuttall

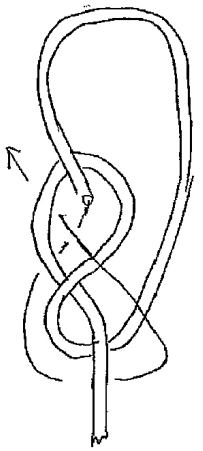
The Bowline, often called the King of Knots. What are the origins of the bowline (when, where, who) are relatively unknown. We know that the bowline is associated with boating, also by climbers (until it fell out of favour, with the introduction of synthetic rope).

The bow is often referred to both verbally and literally. Bow as in bow of a boat. Bow as in reverence or bow in the ribbon tied in the hair, dress or apron. A bow in a line could refer to a bow tie or shoe laces, though these are a form of slip knot, which brings me back to the bow of a ship and the bowline knot.

I believe that the bowline goes back a very long way. It could even be as far as 3000 years ago. The Egyptians had boats made from reeds and progressed to wooden boats. The Romans and Greeks had wood boats in the same period, also the Sumerians (Iran, Iraq) who traded with boats on the Tigris and the Euphrates and the Persian Gulf. The earliest wood boat was moved with oars, later a single square sail was added (a lateen sail superceded the square sail), secured to a central mast fore and aft with a secured line.

When trading by large boats they would tie up alongside a jetty or harbour. The first rope ashore would be from the bow, to maneuver alongside. With time I believe a knot would evolve that was easy to tie and be secure and easy to untie; even today, the first rope ashore is the bow line. The earliest written evidence on the bowline [***in English***] is by Sir Henry Manwayring in 1644 (*The Seaman's Dictionary*), though the earliest written knot-work is by a Greek physician, Oribasius, 350 years AD. A total of eighteen knots for the treatment of fractures. By then the Mediterranean was well travelled by ships, even reaching England 400 years before Oribasius's written work on knots. Yet no-one had written anything on ships knots until 1644, they were just passed down, sailor to sailor, with knots that had stood the test of time, though this again is conjecture. We will never know the true origin of the Bow-Line-Knot.

TURNAROUND BOWLINE



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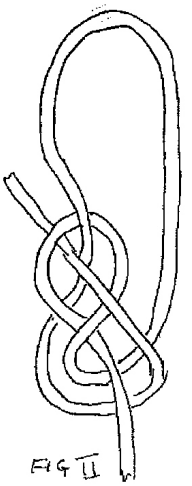

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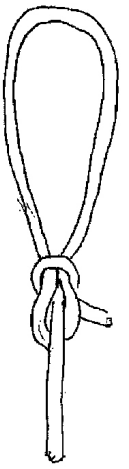
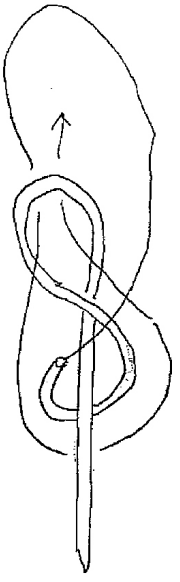


FACE OF KNOT

TURNAROUND LOOP



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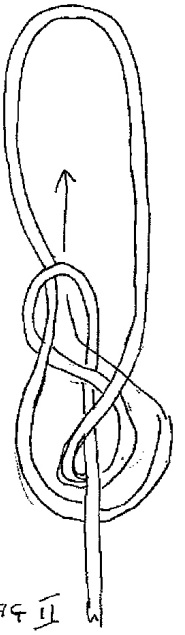

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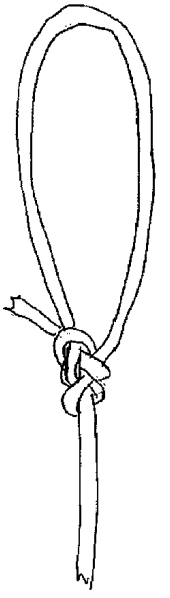


FACE OF KNOT

Ashley Revisited

by Owen K. Nuttall

Ashley Book of Knots (1944 Bends, Chapter 18, Knot #1452)
"*Another original bend that is easily untied.*"

As a knot, #1451, the method of tying is more complicated than could be wished, but can probably be remedied. Ashley gave no name to #1452. However, in Cyrus Lawrence Day's book, published 1947, pp 56-57, he called it Ashley's Bend, although he showed the tying differently, shown as tied by a left-handed person. Who gave the name Ashley's Bend I do not know - it must have been an accolade for the twelve years of putting together his [***Ashley's***] fantastic Book of Knots.

In the mid-seventies, whilst trying different knots, following my way of tying the Carrick Bend by the Falmouth method and other combinations, I thought I had tied a new knot (Fig. A1), which was short-lived when I found out the next day it was Ashley's Bend.

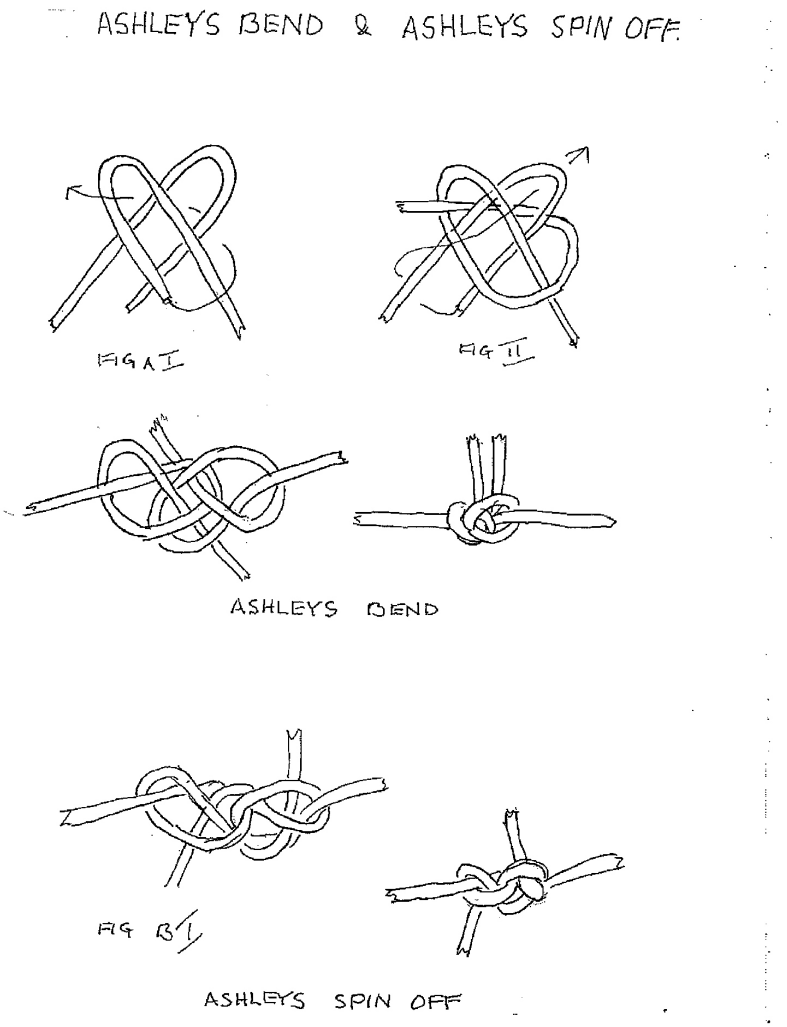
In the summer of 2011, I was going through some Falmouth excursions, on tying Ashley's Bend (Fig. A1), I finished up with a different knot to Ashley's Bend, which was puzzling me. I knew I had tied it as Ashley's Bend - on retying, it came up as Ashley's Bend. I repeated this a few more times and came up with the same result. Trying various ways of varying the loops and working ends, I came up with (Fig. 1) a different knot to Ashley's, which I called Ashley's Spin-Off. Two knots which are different, with the same method of tying!

Desmond Mandeville would have had fun with this knot in his 'trambles'!

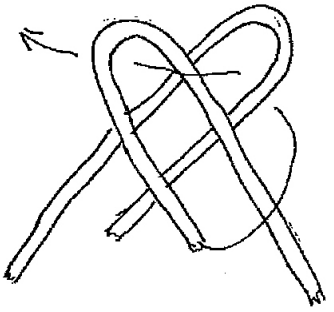
Another knot (Fig. C1) I came up with was a Linfit Jug Sling Knot. This came about from a variation of Handsome Bend, Knotting Matters #54. Although the Jug Sling Knot is easily recognised, I doubt if it's rarely used.

The Linfit Jug Sling Knot is slightly different from the original. One advantage of the knot is it can be tied *in situ* around a spar or mast, unlike the original Jug Sling Knot.

Have fun tying and trying these knots!



LINFIT JUGSLING KNOT



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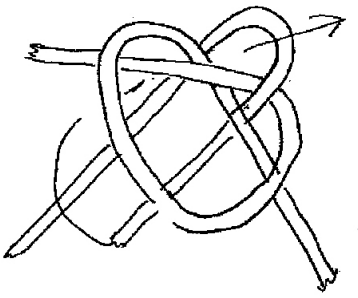

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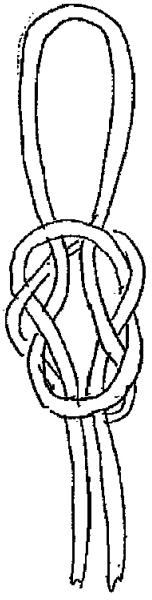
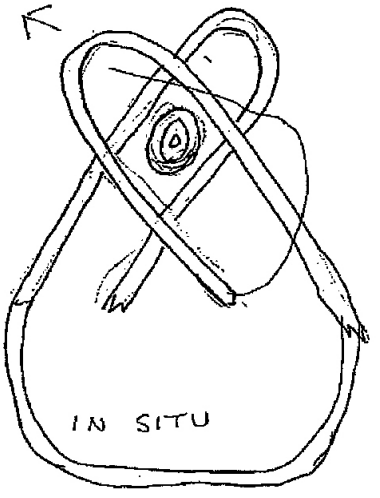


LINFIT JUGSLING.



OLD JUGSLING.

Dear Editor,

Yes, the Zeppelin Bend is an interlocking overhand bend and I apologise to Owen Nuttall for stating otherwise.

I have been thinking further about these fascinating bends; fascinating because there are so many ways to interlock overhand bends and fascinating because of their simplicity, symmetry and practicality. In view of claims made in recent issues regarding the virtues and vices of these bends, I have tested 3 of them to see how they perform under extreme load.
The rope used was 8mm polyethylene "silver" [very slippery and used widely by truckies, fishermen and farmers]. The rope did not break at 400kg , the limit of the load cell on my testing device. Each bend was tested 5 times and each time the point of failure was recorded in kg. These readings were averaged. The testing device consisted of a load cell [connected to a digital readout] at one end, and a winch to exert tension on the rope at the other. The spool of the winch was built up in diameter in order to minimise crushing of the lower layer of rope. Crushed rope was discarded.
Zeppelin 290, 300, 310, 285, 305. average **298** This bend's shape distorted but it didn't slip.
Ashley 385, 360, 300, 320, 305. average **334** This bend maintained shape and didn't slip.
Hunter 280, 280, 275, 305, 290. average **286** This bend maintained shape but slips slightly prior to failure.

The results were not as consistent as I would have liked and would probably be different in different rope. However, at least for this rope and for practical ropework, Ashley's appears to have the edge.

Regards

Steve Wicks
South Australia
[***Photographs of device on p. 16 - Ed***]

Photographs by Steve Wicks of his testing apparatus (see p. 15)

Dear Lindsey,
Subject: Technical Bulletin
Several years ago, if I recall correctly, Charles Warner wrote an article suggesting the Guild publish an occasional bulletin dedicated to the technical aspects of knots and rope work. The idea did not appear to catch the interest of members at that time, but I believe that it has considerable merit. Knotting Matters is notable for the eclectic mix of articles resulting in an intriguing and informative periodical of interest to practically every member. Nonetheless, I would assume that there are several members who would appreciate a vehicle that delivered articles of greater depth. KM cannot be expected to contain contributions of several thousand words with photos and diagrams, nor do I believe that it ever should.

Judging from the contributions to KM and the topics that arise in the website forum, it can be concluded that there are a lot of members who have specific interests in particular aspects of knots and ropes. These include historical as well as technical aspects. For example, in my own case, I have long been interested in the development of a knot catalogue and the stability of knots when subjected to periodic loading.

The existence of Guild branches that produce their own newsletters, particularly when these are electronically distributed, provides a suitable media for the publication and distribution of scholarly articles and papers, as has been the case in some instances. This activity increases the workload of the editorial staff, (usually only one willing soul I would bet). The normal practice in professional journals is to have all submissions subjected to peer review. Following this practice would assist the editor in spreading the work load. All she or he has to do is to forward the submission to appropriate members, and nag them as required to get responses. The letter by Jerry George in KM 113 outlines ideas on the development of an inventory of member's skills. Such an inventory could assist in determining suitable reviewers. Putting "my money where my mouth is", I volunteer my limited abilities as a reviewer.
Cheers
Frank Brown

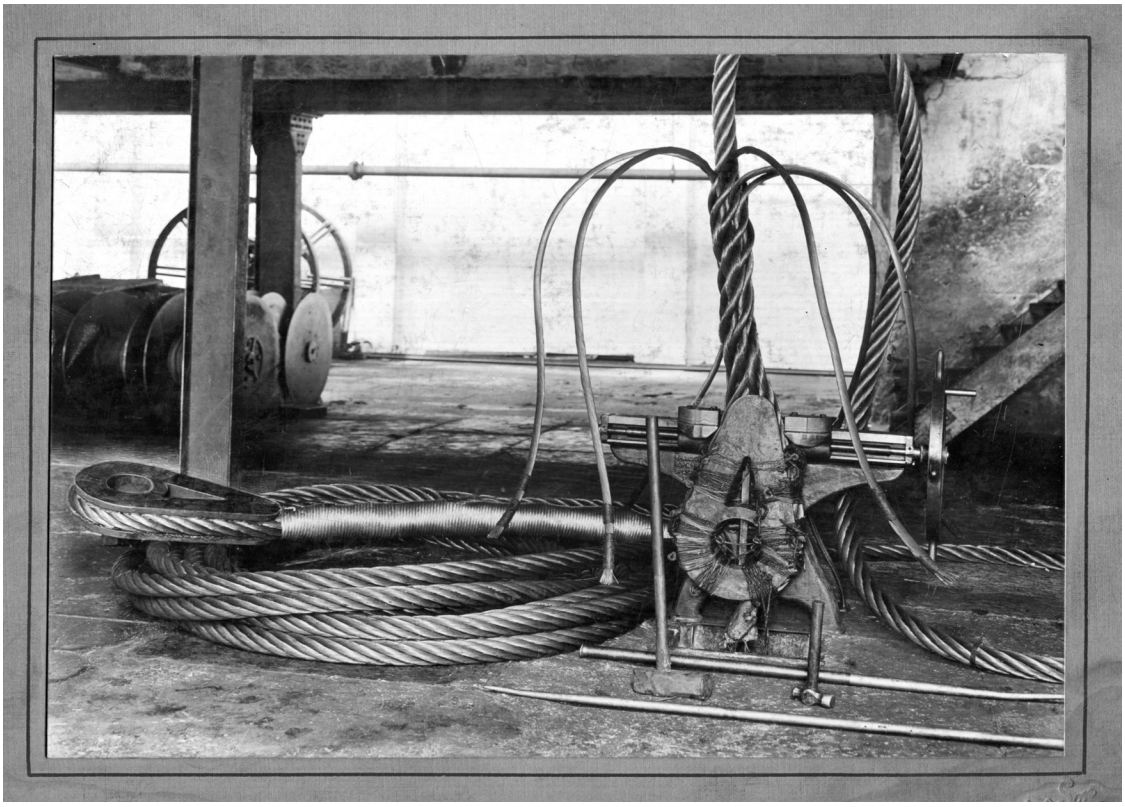
Notes from A Lay Secretary

You will see that with this KM you will have received lots of information about the AGM in May, hardly seems possible that nearly a year has passed since the last one. Please take the time to look through it completely and hopefully we will see many of you on the day. Ensure that you read the information about where to send your application and where to address any queries. The Guild's ex secretary, Barry Mault, is very kindly organising the meeting and is happy to answer any questions. The invitation paperwork is on the Member's area of the website if you lose the KM one. Barry asks that you please do not leave applying to attend until the last minute as it causes so many problems. Updates will be added as and when necessary.
Another thing that you will see in this KM is the address of the Guild Membership Secretary, please send any cheques or membership information or questions regarding membership to Bruce the Membership Secretary directly rather than to me. Thanks.

We frequently get questions sent to us about possible new knots; the best thing to do with any knot queries is to post the question on the IGKT Forum [***http://igkt.net/sm/index.php***]. The Forum has a very large audience with huge amounts of knot knowledge. It is very difficult to verify one way or another about the authenticity of any knot, because there are many variations on the same theme in a lot of cases. The Guild has an amazing joint knowledge on the subject but they cannot be the final arbitrators on a single item. So any proposed 'new knots' sent in will be put onto the Forum and published in KM. This will allow our many members to perhaps agree or show that it is not a new knot. This still will not confirm concretely that the knot is new or knot!

So from a very cold Oxfordshire, enjoy your KM and look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Margaret



Note from Des Pawson, MBE:

From a recently acquired set of Photographs taken at an unknown Rope-works in, I think, the North East Of England circa 1930. Note the very large 'spikes and the strands each have two whippings on them. What a riggers wire vise! Almost certain to be a Parkinsons number 2 which was designed to take 1"-2 1/2" wire and here appears to be pushed to its maximum recommended size wire if not beyond.

DES

ps Parkinsons was a Shipley ,Yorkshire manufacturer established in 1882 first making engineers vises and later adding a series of floor standing Riggers Vises they appear to have ceased trading in 1984.

Jottings From Our President

- In my last note I mentioned the Guild's publication of ***A Sailor and His Knots*** as a 30th anniversary project and I now ask you to look at the ordering procedure for the limited-edition, hard-bound version which is on page 21. This book, and the soft-bound copies, should be available by the AGM in Hoylake in May.
- The continuation of the Guild's history – Much Ado About Knotting part 3 – is progressing. We have been fortunate to have found the electronic copy of the first 20 years and we propose making the complete history available electronically on the website...
- … which brings me nicely to the next item. The Council has agreed that the website should be redesigned and made partially interactive. There will be a members' area, with individual password access, which will allow many of the tasks now carried out by letter or email to be completed online. We are seeking a quote for this work. It is an overdue change and should make the job of Bruce Turley, our Membership Secretary, rather easier. With around 1200 members in over 30 countries, his work is much more time consuming than when we were a small group.

  The current members' area password is on page 4 - be sure to enter the last exclamation point!
- One area of the website we would like to expand is the links to other useful sites. If you know of any such links and think they should be included please send them to me at president@igkt.net.
- I am delighted that we have been offered a home for the 1986 knotboards in the Royal Army Museum in Brussels where the current knotting exhibition has been organised by George Bayot.
- With this issue of Knotting Matters come details of three small proposed changes to the Guild's Constitution that the Council feels will be beneficial. We hope you will find these uncontroversial – they are organisational and shouldn't have any deleterious effects.

- Insurance. We have public liability insurance for UK members involved with the Guild's activities, both in the UK and for temporary trips abroad. For legal reasons we cannot cover non-UK members this way and the Council urges all overseas branches to make arrangements in their own countries.

For UK members, we would remind you that this insurance is only valid if the Secretary has prior notice of attendance at an event. Please do protect yourselves in this way: we are becoming a very litigious country.

- And finally (at last, you say) I hope to meet many of you at the AGM at Hoylake, UK, over the weekend of 12-13th May. A new member, who attended the half-yearly meeting in October, said that he had been expecting a boring business meeting and was delighted to find that any business at IGKT events took the minimum time possible and that most of the time was a very jolly social event with ideas being shared, knotting being demonstrated and a lot of friendly chat. If you've never been before, and think AGMs are boring, do please come along to Hoylake and be pleasantly surprised. See you there!

We celebrate 30 years of IGKT 1982 – 2012

As mentioned in the President's Jottings in our last issue, following a very generous offer from one of our founder members - Des Pawson MBE - in 2011, the Council has arranged for the publication of a book "***A Sailor and His Knots***" to celebrate our 30th anniversary.

The book is formed from a collection of articles published by Clifford Ashley in the mid 1920's in ***Sea Stories*** Magazine and of which Des has a complete collection. With the agreement and encouragement of Phoebe Chardon, Ashley's daughter, who has very kindly written a foreword for our publication, IGKT is producing a softback version of this complete collection. This will be sent free to all individual members of IGKT soon after the AGM in May. We hope that the book will be a source of great pleasure for everyone who reads it and that it will grace knotters' bookshelves for years to come.

Since this publication is unique, there will also be a casebound, hardback, limited edition of the book with a numbered frontispiece, available for purchase. This can only be produced if there is a minimum number of advance orders. The beautifully bound copies, in their protective box, will be on sale for £30 plus postage.

If you would like one or more copies, please write or email BEFORE APRIL 10th 2012 to

IGKT Supplies, Oaken Cleave, Cobbaton, Umberleigh, EX37 9SG, UK
or ***supplies@igkt.net***

Public Relations News

by
Des Pawson MBE and Liz Pawson

Changes at Footrope Knots

After nearly 30 years things are changing here at Footrope Knots. As of the 22nd of January the cordage and tool supply part of Footrope Knots will be dealt with by our friend Moray MacPhail of Classic Marine in Woodbridge. We have known Moray for 20 years and he intends to expand and develop the range of tools and materials available (he already has brought back into stock the 2.5 & 3mm and the #2 cotton chalk line).

This is the best way that the tool and material supply side of Footrope Knots can continue and expand. The internet had generated many more enquiries and customers and it was restricting the time we had to do the things we wanted to do. This move will enable us to [***be***] concentrating on knotting, ropemaking and research, writing, teaching and demonstrating. You are welcome to still contact us for help with any of your knotty, ropey problems.

We will continue to stock a range of specialist knotting books. The Museum of Knots and Sailor's Ropework continues to flourish, indeed it is expanding. Visitors, as always, will be very welcome, but do make an appointment. From the 22nd you can contact Moray directly at Classic Marine, Unit 15, Martlesham Creek Industrial Park, Sandy Lane, Woodbridge, IP12 4SD, Telephone: +44 (0)1394 380390, E-mail: sales@classic-marine.co.uk. Tell him you are a member of the IGKT. From the 22nd his website should be updated to carry most of the things that we did. www.ClassicMarine.co.uk. Alternatively, use the links on our web page.

Hopefully you should not notice much change, indeed if it helps, you can always pay by credit card on his website. If you have any questions or problems we will still be here.

Des and Liz

An Excel (lent?) Book List

by
Frank Brown

I bought my first knot book about 45 years ago. It is a fifth edition of "***Knotting and Splicing Ropes and Cordage***" published by Cassell. The book was first edited by one Paul N. Hasluck in 1904, and my copy was entirely revised by Eric Franklin. I still refer to it, and it is showing signs of age, just like me. Since that purchase I have been collecting knot books and other texts related to knotting at a steady rate. This small obsession has made it easy for my family to decide what to give me for birthdays, Father's Day and Xmas--- book tokens.

With advancing years and strong advice to get my affairs in order, I tackled the task of generating a catalogue of the collection. Initially I asked for guidance from a couple of librarians and knotting colleagues and received some help, but somehow the systems offered did not appeal. So I decided to draft my own using a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. I had been given a whole day's teaching in the use of Excel a dozen years ago, so was sufficiently trained to be able to call up the program. The rest was trial and error. The main advantage to me is that the list is searchable using this facility.

I had already generated a list of the books that merely recorded the title, author and ISBN. With this as a starting point I then contemplated what other factors to include. The final choice is shown in the example of the first entries in the spread sheet.

As each book was entered in the catalogue, the entry number was inscribed on a small adhesive label inside the front cover. I am considering repeating that operation and sticking the label on the spine where it is wide enough, and maybe even putting the collection on the shelf in numerical order (probably after I see a porcine aviator). The value attached to each book is an estimate of replacement value. When I came

to add that list of figures, I got a big surprise. I have amassed, so far, 187 books worth a few K$. I believe there are several Guild members with larger and more comprehensive collections, but I am not entering any competition. However, I ain't stopped collecting either.

A copy of the list is now in the hands of my insurance company, who have raised my house and contents premium only a few $Aus. One of the reasons for creating the catalogue was a desire for the collection to remain ***in toto***. This may not be achievable, but when my heirs come to handle my estate, the list should assist in the disposal operation, either as a whole or piecemeal on e-bay or similar.

As well as the books I have a full set of KM, a stack of photo copies of knot related subjects, a few videos and CD's. Whether these get on the list is yet to be decided. I would be happy to receive any comments or (polite) suggestions for improving the catalogue.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	No.	Author	Title	ISBN	Method of Tying			Types	
2					Text	Photos	Drawing	Working	Decorative
3	1	Ashley C	Ashleys Book of Knots	0-571-09659 X	Y		Y	Y	Y
4	2	Graumont & Hensel	Ency. Knots & Fancy Rope Work	0-87033-021-7	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	3	Day C L	The Art of Knotting & Splicing	0-87021-062-9	Y	Y		Y	Y
6	4	Warner C	A Fresh Aproach to Knotting and Ropework	0-9592036-3-X	Y		Y	Y	Y
7	5	Harrison P P O	The Harrison Book of Knots	0-85174-346-3	Y		Y	Y	Y
8	6	Spencer C L	Knots Splices and Fancy Work	0-85174-157-6	Y		Y	Y	Y
9	7	Asher H	The Alternative Knot Book	0-7136-5950-5	Y		Y	Y	
10	8	Budworth G	Knots and Crime	085164-017-6					
11	9	Grainger S E	Knotted Fabrics	0-9530398-0-3	Y		Y	Y	Y
12	10	Grainger S E	Creative Ropecraft	0-948788	Y		Y	Y	Y
13	11	Fink T & Mao Y	The 85 Ways to Tie a Tie	1-84115-249-8	Y		Y		Y
14	12	Miles R E	Symmetric Bends	981-02-2194-0			Y	Y	

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Tools	Splicing		Glossary	History	Materials	Type	Artifacts	Users	Value			
	Laid	Braid		Info.	Info.		Construction		$AUD			
Y	Y		Y	Y		HC	Y	G	120		**User Code**	
Y	Y		Y			HC	Y	G	100		G= General, M= Maritime,	
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	HC		G	50		A= Angling	
						PB		G	50		C = Climbing N= Nodeologists H = Hand crafters	
Y						HC	Y	G	35			
Y	Y				Y	HC	Y	G	30		**Type Code**	
					Y	PB		G	30		HC = Hard Cover	
			Y		Y	PB		N	40		PB = Paper Back	
Y						HC	Y	G	30		Bl =Booklet	
Y	Y		Y			HC	Y	G	30		Ex = Extract	
				Y		HC		G, N	30			
						HC		G,N	50			

THE FIRST 1,701,935 KNOTS

reported by one of KM's science correspondents

'How many knots are there in total?
More than a myriad*, but that's anecdotal.'
(from Knotty Potty & Other Pithy Poems
for Knotting Devotees, © 2006 Jennifer Wren)
*Myriad: 10,000, or more generally an infinite number

Exceeding the uncounted hundreds of knots in Graumont & Hensel's Encyclopedia of Knots & Fancy Rope Work, and the [***nearly***] 4,000 stated cited by the dust jacket blurb to The Ashley Book of Knots, IGKT poetess Jennifer Wren's estimate was perhaps more prescient than even she might have dreamed.

When the eminent 19th century scientists Kelvin, Tait, et al, were pursuing the theory that atoms were 'little knotted whirlpools in the aether [**sic**]', they began to assemble a sort of periodic table of knots based upon crossing points. Only one knot (the trefoil) had 3 crossings, and one other (the figure eight) had 4; then came 2 with 5; 3 with 6; 7 with 7; and 21 with 8 crossings. By the 1890s they had listed 250 such knots. Well, 251 actually, until 1974 when the New York lawyer and amateur topologist Kenneth A. Perko Jr. (1941-2002) discovered, by manipulating loops of rope on his living room floor, that the 161st and 162nd knots with 10 crossings (designated 10161 and 10162) were identical.

The Perko Pair 10161 and 10162 before …

…

and after rearrangement in 1974 [next page]:

[downloaded 27-01-2012 from www.knotplot.com/perko]

Anyway, the notion of ethereal vortices was soon disproved and discarded, but scientific interest in knot theory had been aroused and has not gone away. In 1998 *The Mathematical Intelligencer* published a paper– '*The First 1,701,935 Knots*' – by Jim Hoste, Morwen Thistlewaite and Jeffrey Weeks, tabulating every imaginable knot of 16 or less crossing points, with a UNIX-based computer program KNOTSCAPE for easy access to all of them. So, next time we are asked how many knots we know – or, at least, know of - we now have an authentic minimum total.

The Ropeman's *Thole* Pin Keyfob

by

Mike Howarth

A story in four parts:

1 *Thole* pins are wooden rods used in traditional boats, singly or in pairs, to hold the rower's oars. I and my business partner, Mick Betts, rope up the *thole* pins because my customers like to use them for beach hut or hotel room keyfobs, or just to look good hanging up in the kitchen or porch. People often write on the wood.

At first, I used the broken bits of the pins found on the seashore and only discovered the source and the name recently in a St Mawes racing gig boatshed. *Thole* pins are still made by a company in Cornwall.

2 By chance I noticed in the introduction to ***Beowulf***, Seamus Heaney quotes *thole* inspired his new translation. "They'll just have to learn to *thole*, his aunt would say about some family who had suffered an unforeseen bereavement"(p. xxviii). *Thole* resolved the link of a river of language traveling from England to Scotland and Ireland, because the old Anglo-Saxon, spelt *þolian,* means 'to suffer' and came to Ireland as *thole*.

3 I use ropework in training workshops for business and education. An essential part of the way we learn is metaphor. I use the example, the metaphor The Bitter End. The wooden pillar attached to the end of the anchor rope is called a Bitt. In a storm when the anchor rope broke the bitt - that was the End! Another example: to remember how to tie the Monkey's Fist knot, sailors linked the knot tying sequence to the story of catching a monkey - to put food inside a hole in a tethered coconut shell. The monkey grabs the food, but its fist is too big to escape the hole. Metaphors contain visual, audio and movement in the brain as 'understanding'. *Thole* Pin is a classic example.

At a recent workshop, I noticed a member suddenly look stunned as I told the *thole* pin story. It turned out not only had she a Seamus Heaney book of poems in front of her, but the Irish O'Flaherty branch of her family had lost several brothers in one boat accident called the Disaster- well-known in Irish folklore. My example *thole* - suffering in bereavement - showed the real power of metaphor in understanding.

The *thole* pin story may also help the 'wow' moments in teaching, when 'the penny drops' & real understanding suddenly takes place.

4 Then came to me a memory: a visit a long time ago to the Irish Aran Islands and Inishmaan to make a broadcast, and to witness the landing of building materials using *curraghs* through the surf, including a cast iron stove, - the ancient design with a flimsy cowhide covering.

I dug out my old photographs of those boats and there, on the curraghs, are single *thole* pins for the oars: dangerous work - and to *thole* indeed!

A *thole* pin keyfob is a special piece of history.

Mike Howarth

Thole pin keyfobs from:
The Ropeman
Website: ropeman.co.uk

Photographs, above, then top left clockwise:

Curraghs Inishmaan, Aran isles. Landing building materials early 1980s.

Pine *Thole* pins keyfobs: with gig colours and tarred flax lanyards.

Family fishing boat: Jim Wheeler's Crab Shed, Steephill Cove, Isle of Wight.

(C) All photographs Mike Howarth

WHEELER'S

Reef Knots (Trambles - with a difference)?

by
David Raynor

Hello,

My name is David Raynor. I am a Scout Leader from Langley, near Slough in Berkshire, UK. I recently [***David wrote to KM on September 7, 2011***] attended the 85th "Gilwell Reunion" at the home of scouting, Gilwell Park on the outskirts of London. While I was there, I saw the IGKT starting to set up their stall and spoke to one of them. I told him that I had found a new way to tie some old knots, which I thought was useful. I have never seen this technique mentioned in any books, so I thought the IGKT might be interested. He suggested that I write in to the Secretary with a description, so here it is! I hope you find it interesting. Basically, it is a way to tie a Fisherman's Knot and a variant of the Fisherman's Knot.

You start with a basic reef knot, tied loosely, with the ends probably a little longer than usual (Fig. 1). Then look at how the working ends emerge from the knot. One end comes out on top [***of the reef knot***], the other comes out from underneath. I shall call these the 'top' rope and 'bottom' rope respectively. Obviously you may have tied your reef knot as a mirror image to mine, but the principle should be the same. Pass the 'top' rope round underneath its own standing end. Pass the 'bottom' rope over its own standing end (Fig. 2).

Then tuck the 'top' rope down through the middle of the reef knot (Fig. 3) and tuck the 'bottom' rope up through the middle from the other side (Fig. 4). Note: this is where it can go wrong! Keep the ends from crossing over themselves. So, in the picture, the left-hand one should stay firmly on the left side of the central hole and the right-hand one should stay on the right. If you are holding it in your hands, this will probably come naturally.

Now, swap your hands over, so your left hand is holding the [***working***] end of the right-hand rope and the right hand is holding the end of the left-hand rope (Fig. 5). Then pull your hands gently apart. It should collapse into a pair of overhand knots, giving a Fisherman's Knot (Fig. 6). Note: the two knots are tied in opposite ways - left-handed and right-handed - so it is perhaps not quite the way most people would tie it if the two knots are tied separately.

An alternative way of doing it gives a Fisherman's Knot tied with Figure-8's instead of overhand knots (I have seen it in the Ashley Book of Knots, but don't ask me to remember the number!). Again, start with a loose reef knot. Perversely, I have tied it as a mirror image of the previous one (Fig. 7)! The ends will need to be even longer than before. Again, note how the ends come out of the reef knot. One end comes out on top and one on the bottom. I will again call these the 'top' rope and 'bottom' rope.

This time, the 'top' rope (the right-hand rope in my picture this time) should be brought down **over** it's own standing part, not under as before (Fig. 8). The 'bottom' rope should be passed round **under** its own standing end. Then, you bring the ends around the standing ends (Fig. 9). You can do each end separately, you don't have to do them both at the same time. Pass the end of the 'bottom' rope down and then up through the middle of the hole in the reef knot (Fig. 10). Can you see how the rope [***on the left***] has been tied into a Figure-8? Do the same for the 'top' rope, passing it down through the hole in the middle of the reef knot (Fig. 11). As for the earlier example, make sure that you keep the two ends from crossing over as they go through the middle of the reef knot. As before, swap your hands over and pull gently apart (Fig. 12). It will capsize into two Figure-8 knots (Fig. 13)! [***Draw them together for an alternative Fisherman's Knot*** (Fig. 14).]

I'm sure that I can't be the first person to spot this! I had read the "Disappearing Reef Knot" trick in Geoffrey Budworth's "***The Knot Book***" and simply tried the same thing on both sides of the knot. Maybe everyone else has tangled the ends as they go through the middle?

After years of practice, I can do this now with my eyes closed, and I use it on many occasions when I need to join two ropes. Sometimes I make a mistake and one side ends up as an overhand knot and the other end as a Figure-8, but it still works. I find it has the advantage that the underlying reef knot usually holds together if it is jerked out of your hands as you are tying it. I have shown it to many Scout Leaders and not met anyone who has seen it, although several have seen the 'Disappearing Reef Knot' trick before. I hope that you find it interesting.

Yours sincerely,
David Raynor
Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Langley Scouts
[address provided]

Fig. 5

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

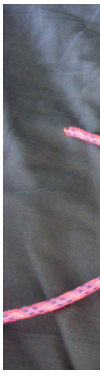


Fig. 7

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

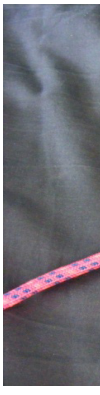


Fig. 9

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

Fig. 7

Fig. 8

Fig. 9

Fig. 10

Fig. 11

Fig. 12

Fig. 13

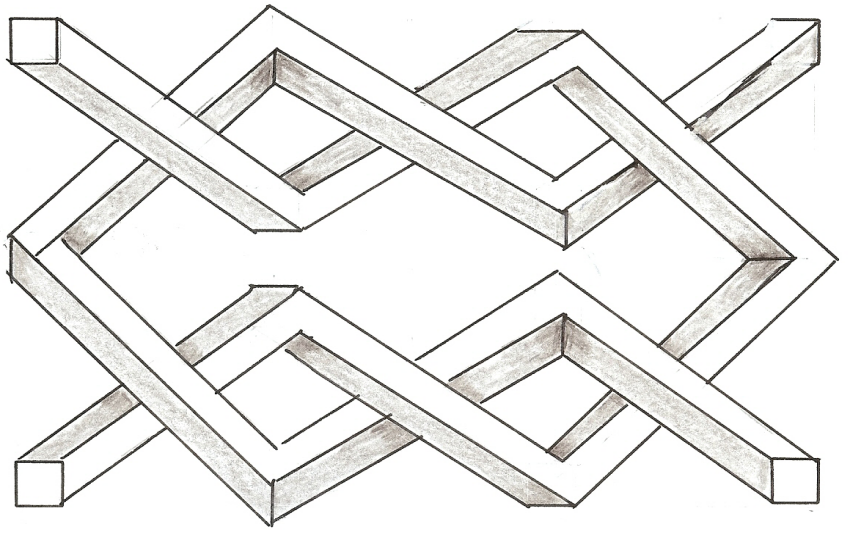
Fig. 14

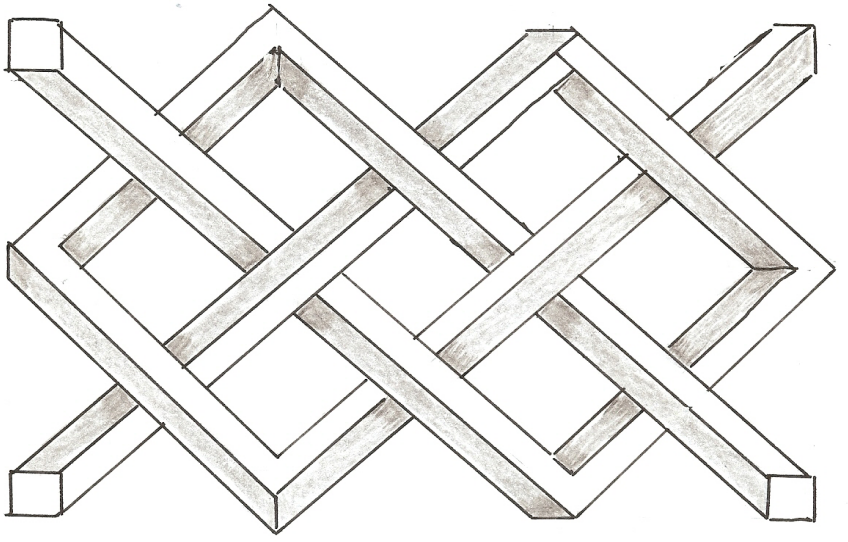
IMPOSSI-KNOTS

by "Jennifer Wren"

At first glance
these knots are viable
and evidently tie-able;
but portrayed in oblique projection
(with some 3-D misdirection)
makes illusory crossing spots....
and renders them impossi-knots*

*As distinct from an Innomi-knot (which is simply a knot without a name), an Impossi-knot is any knot that - despite its appearance - either cannot be tied or will not retain its imagined form.





A couple of
IMPOSSI◇KNOTS

How I Did It

by Jimmy Ray Williams

I received a call from Dave Malafronte, a fireman who is First Mate on Fire Boat # 2 in San Pedro, CA. He attended our meeting in July and was interested in learning some necessary knots. This call was a request that I come down to the Fire house and give him some one-on-one instruction for putting an eye splice in 1.25 inch, three strand rope (synthetic).

So, of course, I gave Lindsey Philpott a call and asked if he would like to join us. And, of course, he did.

We arrived at the Fire House at 11:35 AM on Wednesday, the 18th of August. We were introduced to the Firemen on duty, and Dave started our visit with a tour of Fireboat # 2.

First thing we noticed was the Monkey's Fist and line attached to a life ring. The knot was tied improperly and the line was coiled wrong. A short line was attached to the coil with a Larks Head and then tied to the railing with a clove hitch (not a quick release). Lindsey and I suggested the attachment be made using a lanyard with an eye splice and a button knot. Lindsey also re-coiled the line appropriately and instructed Dave on the proper technique for throwing the line.

We continued on our tour of the boat. All I can say is WOW! (And the pictures do not do it justice.) As we were leaving the boat, the Captain told us to come on in as lunch was ready. So, we dined with the crew and enjoyed a great meal and answered many questions about knots.

We then proceeded out to the back area where the old and new rope awaited. Our instructions (Lindsey's) were . . .

Determine how many tucks are required for your splice. As this is a very strong, but very slippery synthetic rope, seven tucks are required.

Unlay the working end. Note the "kinks" in the strand (called crowns). Seven are needed for the splice and one or more extra should be unlaid for working room. Be sure to tape the ends of each strand to prevent them from raveling, and seize the rope to prevent any further unlaying (we used masking tape).

Determine the size of your eye. We had the line that was being replaced, so it was used as a pattern. Then mark the rope where the splice will begin.

Now, bring the working end up and place it along the standing end, insuring that the rope has no twists or kinks in the part that will be the eye. Place the working strands so that one lays to the left, one to the right, and, of course, one in the middle. Begin your tucks ***against the lay*** with the middle strand after lining it up properly with the standing part [***use the top visible strand***] and follow with tucking the left and then right strands (or right and left if you are a lefty) again, ***against the lay***. Make sure your first set of tucks are seated and lined up with the standing part.

Begin the next set of tucks, sequence is not important, but will be done in sets of three strands. Take a turn out of the strand you are going to tuck [so that the strand's yarns lay flat against the standing part strand you are crossing], separate the standing parts strands with a fid, and insert the working strand through the gap you made with the fid ***against the lay***. Insure it is laid properly between the standing part strands and fair it up for the next set of tucks. Do the same with the next two strands.

Continue with the remaining sets of strands until you have seven tucks.

We cut off the remaining parts of the strands with a hot knife and melted the ends to form a kind of button. Then the entire splice was parceled and served over [***to provide chafe protection***].

And do you believe I did not get a picture of the finished splice???

From the Editor's Blotter

This issue is a little different again from prior issues - there is no center spread of photographs! I cannot publish what is not sent, so I have allowed instead to have the text run over and form a continuing fascinating litany of our members' concerns and comments. I could have 'borrowed' some photographs of that successful 170,000-strong meeting in China - there were many fascinating knot designs there! I asked, in the last issue, for comments from our readers about that meeting and what your thoughts were on the matter. Sadly I have to report that not one reply has come my way! Let us hope that this does not presage a disinterest in what other knot-tyers are doing around the world.

In addition to thinking again about world ties, I am really happy to see two articles from our committed antipodean friends Frank Brown and Tony Fisher, to add to the comments from Jerry George in the last issue. To add to this, Des Pawson's Museum of Ropework is the only one of its kind in the world and he apparently may have some plans, not yet revealed, looking at his article on the changes in his and Liz's Footrope Knots business. There is hope yet!

I have been fortunate in my life to have had parents who instilled in me a sense of optimism and a sense of practicality which, as my friend Charlie Bell hints, are not good bedfellows (I have interpreted Charlie's comments in my own language). I have therefore taken on the monumental task, with Rusty Helms and past President Dan Machowski, of organizing the 2013 AGM and Knot Tyer's Gathering in California aboard the Queen Mary. We are happy to do this for the sake of knot-tyers everywhere - and there are many - who want to show what they do in the quiet of their own homes and businesses. I am very much looking forward to seeing what our fellows in knotting around the world will bring to this exciting prospect - one that ties the UK and USA in what I hope is warm and interesting discussion, teaching and knotting in its many forms. Happily knotting through life.....

How I Did It (Rope Build)

by
Russ Oliver

I read the article in Crossfit Journal showing how to braid your own climbing rope and thought it was a great idea. Then I thought about what it would be like trying to manage 8 thirty-foot lengths of rope. I made a few string bracelets back in the day and keeping the strings straight was a pain. That got me searching the Internet trying to find out more about braiding techniques. I figured there must be some kind of loom or something that would make it more manageable. That's when I came across http://www.ee0r.com/kumihimo/ and learned about the Kumihimo Marudai. I wondered if I could rig something up similar to help manage all those ropes.

After some more reading and a few YouTube videos, I ended up using some duct tape, some old PVC pipe, some sand from the creek bed, a bit of wire, and a stack of tires to put together a Marudai to create my climbing rope. I cut two 100 foot lengths into 1/3rds and ended up with 6 strings that I looped and braided together as a 12 cord round braid. I feel like I took a beautiful Japanese art, Texas sized it, and turned it into a bit of a redneck project (seems like lots of my projects end up using copious amounts of duct tape and/or wire), but it turned out great. I started by braiding a small section in the middle. I just held it in place in a vice to start the braid.

I used some wire to bind it in a loop before putting it on the "Marudai". For my "tamas", I cut some PVC into 6" lengths, duct-taped one end, filled 'em with sand, and closed the other end off with more duct tape. They came out around 3 pounds apiece. In the center of the tires, I just held a 15 pound dumbell on with some more wire. Here it is [***lower right***] after a few turns. You can see the rope growing in the center... I got a bit nervous at the end of my braid when I realized I was about out of string. I pulled the braid up and it only measured 6 feet. I was hoping for more like 10 or 11. Luckily once I put it up and we put some weight on it, the braid stretched out quite a bit. I put a tape on it after Mathis climbed it a couple times and it came in at 11.5 feet. Perfect. I call it a success!!! I was a bit tired in the shoulders after rotating those weights around that many times, but it wasn't too bad. I think one more tire would have brought it up to a more comfortable height. I may do another one with three 100 ft ropes rather than two. I think if I cut them in half instead of thirds, I should have a nice long 15+ footer to climb.

May have been overkill for doing just one rope, but it was pretty easy and now that I have the tamas made, I bet I can whip out a 15 footer pretty quickly.

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Here's the finished product.
[***See Mathis climbing the rope on the back page - Ed***]

Proposal: A Universal Knot Catalogue

(the Ashley of Cyberspace?)

by Tony Fisher

Two articles in "Knotting Matters" #111, June 2011 reactivated my interest in this topic. Firstly, Robert Chisnall's article on page: 30, "Response to Ed. Letter" and secondly, Carol Wang's "Netting an International Guild", on Page: 9.

Among the issues Robert raised, he mentioned my own previous suggestions that the Guild formulate a long-term policy to develop a Universal Knot Catalogue and he mentioned Don Lindsey's ideas of a " rigorous, efficient and easy method of cataloguing and identifying existing and potentially new knots." Carol Wang argued for the Guild to be more international, recognizing the many languages represented by its membership.

Stirred on by these challenges, I have contacted, among others, the Editor of the magazine, Lindsey Philpott; Robert Chisnall; IGKT Vice President, Professor Vaughan Jones, and here in New Zealand Roger Carter. I was contacted by Frank Brown of Tasmania, an earlier proponent of this broad concept. [***See KM#30, 1990 - Ed***]

The reactions to my contacts have been positive; we all agree on the long-term prospect, the need for a small team to put up a proposal to next years [***2012***] AGM and for someone to grasp the nettle and start the ball rolling.

As in most such endeavours, all of us are busy committed people and all are prepared in some way or other to be involved with the project. But it will take one of us to get it going.

I therefore propose that:-

- One member of the IGKT Council be prepared to head up the project. It is no good people not involved at the Governing level of the organisation, working their butts off if, when they report to the Council, their efforts come to naught.
- A small team of members volunteer to work on formulating a suggested programme for the development of the project.
- Among these people there should be included some younger generation IGKT members on the development team. They are more likely to be computer-literate and, as I envisage it, this will be a very long-term project and many of us older people will not see it to fruition.
- Maybe the time-frame for reporting to next year's [***2012***] AGM is too tight, but an interim report of what is happening can be achieved.

WHAT COULD SUCH A CATALOGUE BECOME:

I have no pre-determined goals for this and I make these suggestions as part of getting the project off the ground.

- The development of a repository of knowledge in cyberspace that records as much information as possible about ropes, cords and knots as can be recorded.
- A mechanism of rigorous peer-review before anything is placed on the Catalogue. I do not favour a Wikipedia format, that anyone can place material on it.
- A mechanism to record available knowledge can include a bibliography that the IGKT recommends or suggests as useful (i.e: Peter Suber's website)

- A mechanism where new or possible new knots are examined and tested. Where it is found, to the best of the Guild's ability to do so, [we would be] recognizing what appears to be a new knot. I do have a fear that we need to be very cautious here. I worry that a Mongolian Fisherman will pop out of the woodwork after we have found in favour of a new knot and prove that he or his people have been using the 'new' knot for generations!

- A record of as many knots as possible under some agreed fields. As a practical rigger (See KM: 110, pages: 9-23, for my article: "Knots as Tools") I naturally would be more interested in recording knots used in industry and in the safety field. Others will favour decorative knots, or fields of their own interest…
- A record of forensic cases where Guild members have appeared as expert witness in court cases so that the catalogue can build up case files which other Guild members, and researchers outside the Guild can refer to.
- This concept can also flow into other professional areas. Surgeons, mathematicians and so on.
- In response to Carol Wang's article referred to above, the availability of Translations on the internet (See Google for this), should enable people from language communities other than English, to develop their own contributions on the catalogue, always providing that the same rigorous procedures are used prior to anything being put on their catalogues.

In conclusion:

In response to Robert Chisnall's challenge, I ask that the IGKT Council consider these ideas, appoint a project leader, who in turn gets a small development team together and starts the ball rolling.

Tony Fisher
Member: IGKT, New Zealand.

Dear Mr. Philpott,

My name is Tom Wolf and I have been interested in ornamental rope weaving, but can not find any one near me. I live near Morehead City, North Carolina. Is there any group of knot tyres in my area?

thank You
Tom
[***I have passed on Tom's information to the North American Branch - Ed***]

Future Meetings

IGKT 30th Anniversary AGM 12-13 May 2012
Venue – Hoylake Community Centre, Wirral, Hoyle Road, Hoylake. CH47 3AG, UK [www.hoylakecommunitycentre.org/]
Hoylake is on the end of the Wirral Peninsula and is close to good road, rail and air links. The dynamic city of Liverpool is a short train-ride away. Much of the work of organizing this meeting is being undertaken by our recently retired Secretary, Barry Mault, with current Secretary, Margaret Boggs, as his link to the Council. Our thanks are due to both of them for this important task.

The AGM weekend is much more than a formal meeting; it provides an excellent chance to meet other knotters, to exhibit your own work, to demonstrate your craft to members of the public and to enjoy the annual Knot Supper. Do come!

More details are enclosed with this issue.

Advance notice of the Half-yearly meeting October 6-7 2012
This gathering will be held on the beautiful three-masted barque, ***Mercator***, now a museum-ship in the Channel port of Ostend, Belgium.
[http://www.zeilschip-mercator.be/en/x/81/home]
Meeting organiser: Willaert Geert, willge@telenet.be

2013 is coming
The Honorary Secretary's pleas have been answered - the 2013 AGM and Gathering of Knot Tyers is to be in Long Beach, CA, USA aboard the Queen Mary. The event will take place from Thursday May 9, 2013 to Sunday May 12, 2013 and will include knot tyers from all round the world. Contact Lindsey Philpott [***knottingmatters@igkt.net***] An additional AGM gathering is also being organised in Henley-on-Thames.

Specification for Cat o' Nine Tails
Prison Commission, UK 27/8/1956

Handle: To be made from seasoned silver spruce free from defects of any nature. Finished dimensions to be 19 3/4 inches long by 1 1/4 inches diameter, contracting in three positions to the following particulars:

1. Fluted tip to receive the ends of the tails: 3/4 inches diameter for a length of 3 1/4 inches from the top to the top end of the handle.

2. Middle waist: 13/16 inch diameter for a length of 2 1/4 inches, the lower extremity being 8 3/4 inches from the butt.

3. Lower waist: 13/16 inch diameter for a length of 2 inches, the lower extremity being 1 1/4 inches from the butt.

Tails: To be nine in number, free ends whipped with trist, flax, cable laid. Each to be 36 inches in length, firmly secured to the fluted ends of the handle in such a position that the free running lengths should be not more nor less than 33 inches, and made from hemp whipcord of the following specification:

3 cord 5 ply; running weight 82 + 2 yards per pound;
2 1/2 turns per inch, folded;
0.1 inches diameter; the line to be evenly doubled, free from faults and protruding fibres, and of a firm handle.

All woodwork to be completely covered with blue serge, No. 4 (T76), sewn with black linen 3-cord thread No. 35 to a tight fit. Subsequently, the full length of the tip and waists mentioned above to be securely bound with fine twine of a good quality. The overall weight of the finished article to be no less than 8 1/2 ounces and no more than 9 ounces.

The above obtained by your editor following a visit to H.M. Prison, Dartmoor, U.K. in 2002

Alaskan Branch
Every Wed. evening 6:30 to 8:00
Anchorage Senior Center
1300 E 19th Avenue, Anchorage
Contact Mike Livingstone
Tel: (1) 907/929-7888

East Anglian Branch
Contact: Des Pawson
Tel: +44(0) 1473 690 090
e-mail: des@despawson.com

French Branch
Contact Jean-Pierre Durand
06 64 00 66 91
durand0547@orange.fr
www.igktfrance.com

German Branch
Contact: Peter Willems
IGKT Deutsche Sektion e.V.
c/o Schifffahrtsmuseum
Schiffbruecke 39
24939 Flensburg, Germany
Telephone: xx49 173 46 34 679
Email: info@knotengilde.de

Midlands Branch
The Old Swan, Netherton
Contact: Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124

Northwest Branch
Contact: Dave Walker
Tel: 01244 682 117

Netherlands
Every last Saturday (except Dec.)
De Hoop, Rotterdam
Contact: Jan Hoefnagel
Tel: 078 614 6002

NAB - Mid-Atlantic Region
Contact: Michael Pollock
See handbook for details

NAB - Knot in the Middle
Contact: Rusty Helms
See Handbook for details

Pacific Americas Branch
Second Tuesday of each month
At the Whale & Ale (upstairs)
San Pedro, California
Contact: Jimmy Williams
Tel: (1) 310/679-6864
e-mail: igktpab@gmail.com

Solent Branch
Second Tues. of even-number months
Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
Fareham, Hants, UK
Contact: Ken Yalden
Tel: +44(0) 23 9225 9280

Surrey Branch
Meetings are held at Guildford District Scout Centre, Nightingale Road, Guildford, starting at 20:00 hrs. Please phone for more details
Contact: Howard Denyer
Tel: +44(0) 1483 536 401
www.surreyknots.org.uk

Sweden
Contact: Christoffer Åström Tel: +46 736 381 731 e-mail: christoffer@knopar.se

West Country Knotters
Last Sat. of odd months @13:00 hrs
The Benjamin Perry Boathouse Activity and Training Centre
Phoenix Wharf, Lower Guinea Street, Bristol BS1 6TJ
Contact: Richard Hopkins for directions
Tel: 0117 986 7146
May be subject to change - call first

West Yorkshire Branch
Contact: David Pearson
Tel: 0113 257 2689

Back cover - another unusual form of kumihimo - see the article on page 39.